
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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RESOURCE ENHANCEMENT AND PROTECTION FUND ASSEMBLIES MET IN OCTOBER

REAP Background. The Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Fund was created by the 1989 General Assembly with the goal of protecting Iowa's natural resources. Iowa Code section [455A.18](#) requires a standing appropriation of \$20.0 million from the General Fund annually between FY 1992 and FY 2021.

The REAP Program and Fund receives revenue from federal, private, and State sources, including receipts from the sale of REAP license plates. Although statute sets a standing appropriation of \$20.0 million per year, the General Assembly has the option to appropriate less than this amount. For FY 2018, \$12.0 million was appropriated to the REAP Fund from the Environment First Fund. Total receipts to REAP are allocated using the REAP Fund Formula as outlined in Iowa Code section [455A.19](#). There are two allocations to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) — 1.0% of the appropriation is for administration and a set amount of \$350,000 for educational grants. The remainder of the funds are allocated using the REAP formula:

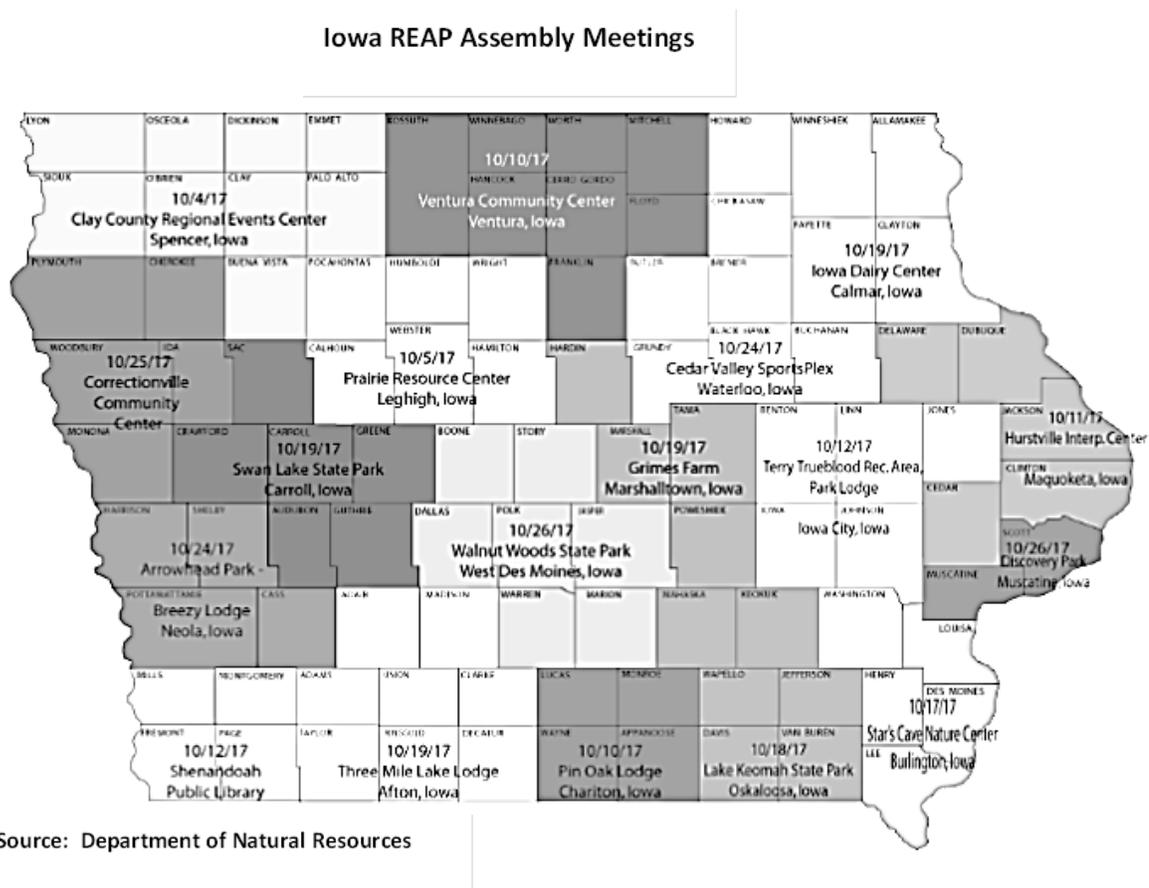
- 28.0% to the DNR for the Open Spaces Account.
- 20.0% to County Conservation Boards.
- 20.0% to the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship for soil and water conservation projects.
- 15.0% for city park projects.
- 9.0% to the DNR for land management and maintenance.
- 5.0% to the Department of Cultural Affairs for the Historical Resource Development Program.
- 3.0% to the Department of Transportation for roadside vegetation projects.

REAP Congress. The REAP Congress is held every two years in Des Moines, and delegates are elected at the REAP Assembly meetings held around the State. There are between 90 and 100 participants at each Congress. The REAP Congress makes recommendations related to the REAP Program to the Governor, Iowa Legislature, and State agencies. The Congress uses the suggestions made at the REAP Assembly meetings to form its recommendations.

Meetings Held. During October 2017, there were 18 meetings held around Iowa, which were coordinated by Tammie Krausman, the DNR REAP Coordinator. The following topics were discussed:

- The distribution of REAP funds and the projects that have been funded by the REAP Programs in each area.
- Projects or problems that should be discussed at the REAP Congress. This includes changes to funding, policies, and other related issues.
- The election of delegates to attend the REAP Congress to be held in January. This includes three to five elected delegates and two alternates.

Below is a map of the meetings held around Iowa:



Region 11 Meeting. The Region 11 meeting was held on October 26, 2017, at Walnut Woods State Park in West Des Moines. Region 11 includes Boone, Dallas, Jasper, Marion, Polk, Story, and Warren counties. Joe McGovern, President of the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, chaired the meeting. Delegates were elected, and the following recommendations were approved:

- Fund the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund, which was approved by Iowa citizens in 2010.
- Fund the REAP Program at \$20.0 million as stated in the Iowa Code.
- Encourage REAP Assembly members to communicate to federal representatives the importance of conservation practices in the Farm Bill.
- Ask the Iowa Legislature to take action on water quality.
- Complete a sensitive areas plan for the State of Iowa.
- Remove the 2021 sunset date for the REAP Program.

Additional Information. The REAP Congress will be held in Des Moines on January 6, 2018. For additional information, refer to the [REAP website](#). To review the projects funded by REAP by county, refer to the [Projects Funded webpage](#).

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